

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough review of the present application, and respectfully request reconsideration in light of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-22 are pending in the application. Claims 1-8 have been amended to improve claim language. Claims 9-22 have been added to provide Applicants with the scope of protection to which they are believed entitled. No new matter has been introduced through the foregoing amendments.

The rejection of claims 1-8 under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting as being obvious over the claims of commonly owned patent No. 6,645,186 is noted. The double patenting rejection is obviated through the submission of the attached Terminal Disclaimer. It should be noted that the filing of the attached Terminal Disclaimers is not an admission of the propriety of the Examiner's rejection.

Indication of allowable subject matter of claims 1-8 in the absence of applied art is believed appropriate and therefore courteously solicited.

New claims 9-22, especially new independent claims 9 and 19, are clearly patentable over the cited but not applied references, because the references singly or in combination fail to disclose, teach or suggest the claimed absorbent core which includes, in the crotch region, a central core section lying between darts and lateral core sections separated from the central core section by the darts, wherein the central and lateral core sections are continuous to each other in at least one of the front and rear regions.

Each of the Examiner's rejections has been traversed/overcome. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable

indication of allowance is courteously solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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